

Poetry.

BABY'S GONE.

ROY R. TEETER.

Baby's gone, no more we'll see her
In our home as oft before,
When we came, fatigued from labor,
To our welcome, open door.

Short indeed, her stay was with us,
But we've had a glimpse of heaven,
For we know, as taught by Jesus,
From God's kingdom such are given.

Hope we had, for a brief season,
Her God, on earth, she'd glorify.
Yet, 'twas best, though hid the reason,
Cherished hopes should wane and die.

And the glory, which we looked for,
Hoped would come in later years,
Came so soon; and in God's harbor
Baby's free from sorrow's tears.

It is hard for poor, weak mortals,
God's just laws to understand.
Or to know why from His portals,
Reaches forth death's mighty hand.

But we praise "the Lord who giveth,"
Though comessorrow with the joy,
When we learn the same hand taketh—
Taketh, but not to destroy.

How we loved her! more each moment,
Day by day new graces seen,
Which, to us, brought blest enjoyment,
Ended now by death's cold stream.

How the arms, which gently held her,
Held her fast day after day,
Long, once more, to closely clasp her—
Long in vain, she's snatched away.

Glory be to God the Father,
For the promise He has given,
And the hope we have to meet her
In our home prepared in heaven.

May thy memory, baby precious,
Keep us faithful to the last,
Till the love of God most gracious
Leads us where all sorrow's past.

Then the parents, who are mourning
For the child God took in love,
Will, we trust, heed to his warning—
Be prepared to meet above.

Contributions.

A STRAY SHOT AT THE FREE ROSTRUM.

GEO. A. COPP.

The idea of a free rostrum in the Brethren church is a new evolution. The idea, however, is not new in the world at large. It has been the deceptive rock in the ocean of time that has foundered and stranded and sank many a soul to perdition. We have doubt enough about us already not to count it, besides there are quite enough of reefs in the ocean without putting in dead buoys to run against and tear open and let in more weight, especially when it may be that some now have to pump manfully to keep their frail bark from sinking as it is. The Bible is no

free rostrum. It tells man of his sinful nature and its results, and provides a way of escape, and bids man to take to that way. It does not deal in the higher criticisms, that are in many cases the path to infidelity, but takes man and shows him how foul he is, and then washes him in the blood of the Redeemer, and then shows how clean he may then be. This is enough for the free rostrum has been thoroughly tried in both state and church, and it has in both cases proved a most profound failure. This has been acknowledged to be so important as to not cast a vote for a man until his mind is known on questions that have the welfare of the community at stake, and to these they hold him pledged.

The idea, too, has been tried as already said in the church, and no church or other organization would consent without a chairman to call men to order when they speak out of order, and even rules have been constructed to bend men to a faithful adherence to decorum, even when they may not think themselves out of order.

The idea of free rostrum has also been tried in the family and neighborhood, and has proven no less abortive and destructive to the good and peace of both.

The state, church and home, and individual have all tried the free rostrum business in its completeness, and not only tried it, but proved it a wretched and most miserable failure. It has been found to be the root and stock of anarchy, and all devilment. The state has so well found out this fact that it has put on considerable restraints to keep in bounds those who may persist in a free rostrum business.

We may as well launch a ship and set sail and then trust to the winds to take it to a certain port. We may as well dispense with the governor on the steam-engine and take chances against an explosion, or to take off the brake on the electric car and let it go at any wild rate and risk our chances of safety to fate, as to preach a free rostrum. In fact we may as well do away with all law of every kind and accept Anarchy, free love, and unrestrained acts of all kind as to advocate free rostrum unlimited.

We dare not speak all we think, and so long as we are compelled to put on a brake, or governor to our speech, so long we should not dare to advocate the free rostrum idea. We may as well lay hold on anything our heart may desire, whether we get it lawfully or not, or allow our lusts the freedom to act without restraint so as to preach free rostrum. This is only the stock gone to seed of a free rostrum. Sow the speech and reap the act.

The idea would make beasts of us all. Yea, it would make devils of us, if we were to follow the idea out to its full limits. The state has recognized this and has enacted laws to regulate those who fail to regulate themselves.

We have now already quite enough of contention among us, as a people of the Lord, without opening up the flood gates at a wholesale rate to flood the church with all the filth, scum and deadly matter, and stagnant pools to pour into and poison the minds of the pure. The church paper should not be the swill-tub of the church, to cast all the disease of the mind and of the soul in, but on the other hand it should be the table of the finest fruits, and best, and most healthy bread, and such that has been tested and known to be healthful and strengthening, for the King's Children to sit at, and partake of. If this is not the case there will be sickness and even death in the feast. The Editor, too, should be the master of the meal and exercise his judgment as to what to place before his guests. But the diseased, the rot, the blight, the scab, the mildew, the cores, the pairings, and all dead leaves, and all matter that might tend to strangle, choke, and bring on disease should be cast into the swill-tub, but not on the table.

We may as well expect our children to grow strong on what is pitched out the back door, as to expect the King's Children to grow in grace on free rostrum talk. In fact, most everything must be examined and all deadly matter cut from it before it is fit for the body; hence is it not good reasoning to do the same for the soul's good?

It is a fact that a house may be pulled down in a day, that it took a year to build. A character may be ruined in an hour, that it took a life-time to build. The church may be torn into fragments by free thinkers and free speakers in a few years, that it took many to build.

You will not find absolute freedom anywhere on the earth, nor in anything, without a penalty attached to it. The heathen even know this. The learned and unlearned all admit this, and God enjoins restraint upon his people, hence we cannot afford to accept anything that man and God both forbid.

Fisher's Hill, Va.

By putting on Christ you will put off the love of this world while you live in it. If Christ be in the heart the world will be in its proper place. If you are clothed with the sun, the moon (all sub-lunary things) will be under your feet.—
Lutheran.